

To the Honourable the chosen and betrusted Knights, Citizens and Burges-
ses in PARLIAMENT Assenbled. *Cop. 21 g. 27/25*

The humble Petition of divers wel-affected Free-born People of *England*,
inhabiting in and about EAST-SMITHFIELD and VVAPPING, and
other parts adjacent-

S H E W E T H,

THAT as this Honourable House was chosen by the people to redresse their grievances; so we conceive it our native right to meet together to frame and promote Petitions, for your better information of all such things as are by experience found burthensome and grievous to the Common-wealth. That accordingly this honourable House hath declared, that it ought to receive Petitions, though against things established by law: That in the use of this our native and acknowledged right we (together with Lieutenant Col. John Lilburn, and Mr. John Wildman) were met together in East-Smithfield upon the 17. of January last, and discoursed upon these ensuing particulars, *viz.* Some scrupled the very petitioning this House any more, As a thing from whence (notwithstanding their having hazarded their lives for their freedoms) they had hitherto received nothing but reproaches and injuries, and were answered (by one of the persons before named) to this effect. That it was their duty alwaies, and their wisdom, in this juncture of time, to use their utmost diligence to procure the settlement of the Common-wealth, and that war, famine, and confusion could no other way (probability) be prevented. And it was generally concluded, that the most visible interest of the people was, to uphold the Honour of this House, and to preserve it from contempt.

2. There was likewise an occassional discourse about the right of the Lords to the Law-giving power. And herein was debated the danger of such an Arbitrary Authority (as that is in its own nature) residing in any persons during life, and much more of its descending as an inheritance from Generation to Generation, and something was added from our sad experience of the mischiefs which have ensued hereupon. In particular, it was declared, how their exercise of that claime might be charged in reason with all the precious blood that hath been spilt in the late war, because the King had never had opportunity to levy an Army against the People and Parliament, if the Lords had not deferred so long after many solicitations by the Commons to passe the Ordinance for settling the Militia.

3. It was also accidentally wondred at why **LIEUTENANT GENERAL CROMWEL** and **COMMISSARY GENERAL IRETON**, should now of late urge that no more addresses should be made to the King, whereas they have formerly pleaded, that he might be brought in even with his negative voyce. Whereupon Lieut. Col. Lilburn related a story, That a member of the House of Commons (having information from a credible person, that the King had promised Lieut. General Cromwell, a blew Ribond with a George, and the Earldome of Essex, besides other places of honour and profit to his Sonne. Com. Gen. Ireton) resolved rather to become another Felton then to suffer his Country to be so betrayed: But the Gentleman being dissuaded by friends, and intelligence hereof being sent to the Lieut. General, a Fast ensued at the Head quarters, and so he concurred with the House in the late Votes against the King. Nevertheless in Mr. Wildmans opinion, he was necessitated into such a turn, because **THE SCOTS** having bid HIGHER for the King then he had done, his offer was rejected, and they relied on.

4. Some consideration was had about proportionable assistances towards the charge of Printing our Petitions.

5. It being among other things enquired, whether there were any truth in this rumour, That the Lords had sent to Lieut. Col. Lilburn, and offered him 3000l. to assist in the large Petition now abroad. The Lieut. Col. answered, that it was a false groundlesse report, and that he knew no occasion for it, unless it were because a Lord had sent him to tell him, he would send him a token of his love, if he thought it would be accepted. To which he answered, That he would not be engaged to any Particular Lord, and some other words to that effect.

6. There was a relation made by a person, that some poor people in **THE COUNTRY** did meet together in Companies, and did violently take away the Corne as it was going to Market, saying that it was their great necessity caused them so to do: whereupon, we fearing lest the calamity might be more generall, did ask how wee should best preserve our selves in case of such Tumults, because we bore the names of Round-heads **INDEPENDANTS**, &c. for adhering to the Parliament: and were satisfied by Lieut. Col. Lilburn to this purpose. Friends, The only way for you to be secured is to promote this Petition to the House, that so when the people come to be informed (by the Petition) of your reall intentions to the common good of the whole Nation, as well as to your own, you will be thereby safer then those which have Blew Ribons in their hats, that being the Generals colours and the moderne badge of protection.

7. It was lastly delivered as from a good hand, That some LORDS were willing their Law-giving power should not descend as an inheritance to their posterity, and that they were willing to part with their priviledge of freedom from arrefts.

This being the sum and principall matter of what passed at the aforesaid meeting, as we are ready to attest upon our oaths, if we shall be thereunto called. And understanding that our said deare Friends Lieut. Col. John Lilburn, & Mr. John Wildman (who are therefore deare to us because they have manifested themselves faithfull to the Publique) stand committed by this House, in relation to the said Meeting as Treasonable & seditious practisers against the State, We cannot but be extreamly troubled, not only in regard of their particular sufferings and our own equall concernment, especially upon the consequence thereof, as tending in a great measure to the disinfranchisement of the Nation, from whom the liberty of complaining must then be taken away, when most cause is given them to complaine.

Wherefore your Petitioners do most humbly pray, That L. C. Lilburn & Mr. John Wildman, may be forthwith enlarged, our selves secured, and with the rest of our Countrymen encouraged in a peaceable manner, to make their addresses to this honourable House, and to render fruitlesse the practises of all such, as under any coate shall seek to sow discord betweene you and yours.

And your Petitioners shall pray, &c.

James Worts.

Roger Sawyer.

Henry Giding.

Thomas Chapman.

Valent. Elsing.

Dennis Liddall.

George Browne.

Edward Pardo.

Tho. Goddard.

Tho. Cutler,

Thomas Williams.

John Mrikust.

Mich. Beeve.

John Nirth.

John Wells.

Edward Floyd.

Robert Bagesse.

John Sowden.

Rob. Levite.

Andrew Dedman.